

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-19 (cancelled)

20 (new): An earthquake-immune exterior wall system for use with a multi-story building structure, the wall system comprising:

a plurality of exterior wall panels;

a plurality of structural connectors, each operatively associated with one of the exterior wall panels for structurally coupling the associated exterior wall panel to the building structure for a single story of the multi-story building structure so that a plurality of the exterior wall panels are structurally coupled to each of multiple adjacent stories of the multi-story building structure; and

a plurality of elongate seismic decoupler joints each comprising the sole connection between the exterior wall panels on any one story to the exterior wall panels on an adjacent story of the multi-story building structure, the decoupler joints permitting free in-plane, out-of-plane, and vertical interstory movement of the exterior wall panels on any one story relative to the exterior wall panels on an adjacent story of the multi-story building structure so that loads are not transferred between the exterior wall panels on any one story to the exterior wall panels on an adjacent story of the multi-story building structure if the building structure undergoes swaying motion.

21 (new): The wall system of claim 20 wherein each elongate seismic decoupler joint comprises a continuous, flexible gasket.

22 (new): The wall system of claim 20 wherein each elongate seismic decoupler joint comprises a pair of continuous, flexible gaskets, one positioned at a front of the exterior wall panels and the other positioned at a rear of the exterior wall panels.

23 (new): The wall system of claim 20 wherein each elongate seismic decoupler joint is removably securable between the exterior wall panels.

24 (new): The wall system of claim 20 wherein each elongate seismic decoupler joint comprises an elongate central portion connected between opposite elongate locking portions, the locking portions for connection to the exterior wall panels.

25 (new): The wall system of claim 23 wherein the central portion is generally flat in a natural state and is rolled into position to provide a U-shape between the exterior wall panels, in use.

26 (new): The wall system of claim 20 wherein the exterior wall panels comprise precast concrete cladding panels.

27 (new): The wall system of claim 20 wherein the exterior wall panels
comprise stone cladding panels.

28 (new): The wall system of claim 20 wherein the exterior wall panels
comprise glass panels

29 (new): The wall system of claim 20 wherein the structural connectors
comprise anchor frames.

30 (new): The wall system of claim 20 wherein the exterior wall panels
comprise curtain wall panel frames supporting exterior cladding panels.

31 (new): The wall system of claim 20 further comprising an elongate
rotation-accommodating face cap operatively secured to a bottom edge of each of the exterior
wall panels overlying the seismic decoupler joint.

32 (new): The wall system of claim 30 wherein each face cap is hingedly
connected to the bottom edge of the one of the exterior wall panels.

33 (new): The wall system of claim 20 wherein each elongate seismic decoupler joint comprises an elongate flexible planar element rolled between the exterior wall panels permitting free in-plane, out-of-plane, and vertical interstory movement of the exterior wall panels.

34 (new): An earthquake-immune exterior wall system for use with a multi-story building structure, the wall system comprising:

a plurality of exterior wall panels;

a plurality of structural connectors, each operatively associated with one of the exterior wall panels for structurally coupling the associated exterior wall panel to the building structure for a single story of the multi-story building structure so that a plurality of the exterior wall panels are structurally coupled to each of multiple adjacent stories of the multi-story building structure; and

a plurality of elongate seismic decoupler joint means, each said joint means for flexibly coupling and providing the sole connection between the exterior wall panels on any one story to the exterior wall panels on an adjacent story of the multi-story building structure, the decoupler joint means permitting free in-plane, out-of-plane, and vertical interstory movement of the exterior wall panels on any one story relative to the exterior wall panels on an adjacent story of the multi-story building structure while remaining coupled to the exterior wall panels so that loads are not transferred between the exterior wall panels on any one story to the exterior wall panels on an adjacent story of the multi-story building structure if the building structure undergoes swaying motion.

35 (new): The wall system of claim 34 wherein each elongate seismic decoupler joint means is removably securable between the exterior wall panels.

36 (new): The wall system of claim 34 wherein each elongate seismic decoupler joint means comprises an elongate central portion connected between opposite elongate locking portions, the locking portions for connection to the exterior wall panels.

37 (new): The wall system of claim 36 wherein the central portion is generally flat in a natural state and is rolled into position to provide a U-shape between the exterior wall panels, in use.

38 (new): An earthquake-immune exterior wall system for use with a multi-story building structure, the wall system comprising:

a plurality of exterior wall panels;

a plurality of structural connectors, each operatively associated with one of the exterior wall panels for structurally coupling the associated exterior wall panel to the building structure for a single story of the multi-story building structure so that a plurality of the exterior wall panels are structurally coupled to each of multiple adjacent stories of the multi-story building structure; and

a plurality of elongate, flexible seismic decoupler joints removably securable to and comprising the sole connection between the exterior wall panels on any one story to the exterior wall panels on an adjacent story of the multi-story building structure, the decoupler joints permitting free in-plane, out-of-plane, and vertical interstory movement of the exterior wall panels on any one story relative to the exterior wall panels on an adjacent story of the multi-story building structure so that loads are not transferred between the exterior wall panels on any one story to the exterior wall panels on an adjacent story of the multi-story building structure if the building structure undergoes swaying motion.

39 (new): The wall system of claim 38 wherein each elongate seismic decoupler joint comprises an elongate central portion connected between opposite elongate locking portions, the locking portions for connection to the exterior wall panels.